

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CG-00

DOT-00 L-03 H-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 DLOS-04 /086 W

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R 061617Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5437

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0831

CASABLANCA FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: 0GDS

TAGS: EFIS PFOR MRHSP

SUBJECT: SPANISH FISHING BOATS BEING HELD AT NOUADHIBOU

1. ON MARCH 17 TWO SPANISH FISHING BOATS BASED IN CANARY ISLANDS WERE BROUGHT INTO NOUADHIBOU PORT BY MAURITANIAN PATROL BOATS FOR FISHING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION. ON MARCH 25 THREE ADDITIONAL SPANISH VESSELS WERE BROUGHT INTO NOUADHIBOU BY GIRM AUTHORITIES FOR SAME REASON. (WLA)INS OF ALL VESSELS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY \$2,500 FINE. AS OF APRIL 6, FIVE VESSELS WERE STILL BEING DETAINED IN NOUADHIBOU. CREWS ARE ABLE TO MOVE FREELY AROUND TOWN, BUT PRESSURE IS BUILDING UP AGAINST SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR RELEASE OF VESSELS.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEIZURE AND PRECISE REASONS FOR FINES ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. SPANISH CHARGE IN NOUAKCHOTT SAID HE BELIEVS VESSLES WERE HAILED TO NEAR NOUADHIBOU. AT LEAST SOME OF VESSELS WERE OPERATING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS WITH FALSE LICENSES. CHARGE EXPLAINED THERE IS GROUP COMPOSED OF SEVERAL GIRM OFFICIALS IN  
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NOUADHBIOU, SPANISH BUSINESSMEN, MAURITANIAN BUSINESS-

MEN, AND PERSONS IN CANARY ISLANDS WHO ARE SELLING  
PHONY LICENSES TO FISHERMEN WHO WISH TO OPERATE IN  
MAURITANIAN WATERS. DURING PAST WEEK OR TWO, GIRM  
REBYWDLY ARCFTED SEVERAL SPANISH BUSINESSMEN, AT  
LEAST ONE MAURITANIAN BUSINESSMAN, AND ASST. DIRECTOR  
FOR NOUADHIBOU MARITIME DIVISION, DJIBRIL SIDATT,  
FOR BEING INVOLVED IN SALE OF FALSE LICENSE.

3. COMMENT: GIRM IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE NOW  
ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS BY FOREIGN  
FISHING VESSELS. DURING RECENT DPXKSSION WITH DCM,  
GIRM DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES STATED THAT FISHING BOATS  
FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES (HE ONLY CITED SPAIN BY NAME)  
ARE OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN MAURITANIAN WATERS.  
MAURITANIA IS CURRENTLY RENEGOTIATING ITS FISHING  
ACCORDS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN  
MORE FAVORABLE TERMS AND IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO  
SHOW THAT IT CAN BACK DPFEW AGREEMENTS. UNFORTU-  
NATELY, GIRM'S ANTIQUATED NOUADHIBOU-BASED PATROL  
BOATS ARE TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR PURPOSE OF  
POLICING MAURITANIA'S LENGTHY COASTLINE. IN FACT,  
REPORTSOMETHING OF A SURPRISE THAT PATROL CRAFT WERE  
ABLE TO BRING IN THESE FIVE SPANISH VESSEL.HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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